COMPLETE CLAIMS LISTING

1. (Currently amended) A method of manipulating an elongate member during a medical procedure, wherein ~~the elongate member comprises a length, an axis along the length, and~~ a base comprising a stand and a module is coupled to the elongate member, the method comprising:

receiving input from a user to manipulate the elongate member in order to perform a medical procedure;

sending signals to advance the elongate member if the input directs advancement of the elongate member;

sending signals to retract the elongate member if the input directs retraction of the elongate member; and

sending signals to rotate the elongate member if the input directs rotation of the elongate member, wherein the module comprises a first end and a second end, a first plane comprising a length and an axis extending along said length, wherein the module is coupled to said stand at said first and second ends thereby permitting rotation of said plane about said axis, the elongate member is coupled to said module substantially along said axis, and the signals to rotate the elongate member direct a motor to rotate the ~~base~~ module about ~~the~~ said axis ~~of the elongate member~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the elongate member is flexible or rigid.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the signals specify a speed that is proportional to movement of a pointing device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the input is received from a pointing device coupled to a computer system.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the signals to advance the elongate member direct a motor to rotate a wheel in contact with the elongate member.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the signals to retract the elongate member direct a motor to rotate a wheel in contact with the elongate member.

7. (Canceled.)

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manipulating one or more elongate members during one or more medical procedures, comprising:

a base comprising a stand and a module coupled to an elongate member, the ~~base~~ module comprising a first end and a second end, a first plane comprising a length and an axis extending along said length, wherein said first and second ends are coupled to said stand thereby permitting rotation of said plane about said axis, and wherein said elongate member is coupled to said module substantially along said axis, ~~being capable of rotation about an axis parallel to of the elongate member~~;

a first motor coupled to the base that advances or retracts the elongate member along the axis during a medical procedure; and

a second motor coupled to the base that rotates the ~~base~~ module, whereby the plane ~~elongate member~~ is rotated about ~~the~~ said axis, ~~wherein the axis substantially coincides with the longitudinal axis of the elongate member~~ in order to rotate said elongate member during a medical procedure.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the relative speed of first and second motors provides coordinated motion.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first motor advances or retracts the elongate member by rotating a wheel in contact with the elongate member.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a biasing mechanism to bias the elongate member against the wheel.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a clip to retain the elongate member.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a computer system that receives user input to direct the first and second motors.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said method of manipulating an elongate member during a medical procedure further comprises a mode of operation during which movement of said elongate member is of fine resolution.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said computer system further comprises means for directing fine resolution movement of said elongate member.